



# DEVELOPING AND ENCOURAGING

# POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN NP STUDENTS

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## OBJECTIVES

- The learner will be able to discuss a process for developing project experiences for graduate nursing students that allow of the issue of independent practice.
- The learner will be able to describe the impact of graduate student projects to the nursing profession.

## PURPOSE/TARGET AUDIENCE

The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate the development and impact of focused graduate student projects on the nursing profession and policy. Outcomes of this include faculty lead project experiences for graduate nursing students which promote the use of evidence to inform practice and policy, and role-modeling the advanced practice nurse's responsibility to the profession. The target audience is nursing administrators and faculty members considering the implementation of a graduate nursing student scholarly project.

## KEYWORDS

Advanced nursing practice; graduate student project; health policy; legislative process.

## STUDENT IMPACT

- Student satisfaction with faculty members in the project course has been positive, especially as it relates to development of professional skills and meeting specific course objectives.
- Graduate nursing students develop skills which allow them to investigate the topic of independent practice for advanced practice nursing.
- Some of the projects include: surveying patients of a primary care clinic to determine patient satisfaction with NP care; investigation of social media to provide legislative information to nurse practitioners; investigating NP knowledge of ability and legal issues surrounding signing death certificates; the development of a job description as a model for employment of NPs as providers in long term care facilities.
- Graduate nursing students develop the ability to advocate for the profession NP students must first understand cultural, social, and political factors which impact practice and the profession.

## PROFESSIONAL IMPACT

- Graduate nursing students gain understanding of the expectation to engage in life long advocacy for the nurse practitioner profession.
- Graduate nursing students are encouraged to submit their work for publication.

## FACULTY IMPACT

- Members of the faculty at the University School of Nursing utilize the masters final project to guide NP students the in the exploration of the issue of independent practice. Research methods are used by the graduate nursing students as they investigate various aspects of independent practice, including policy, reimbursement, education, training and skills, effectiveness of NP patient care, and attitudes among nurses.
- Faculty receive workload credit for the project course. The project is developed over 2 or more semesters and culminates in a professional presentation to peers, VSUSON faculty and administration, and invited guests.
- Many of the graduate nursing student projects are of good quality and have been selected for presentation at the Valdosta State University's Annual Graduate Research Symposium with recognition of the faculty mentor.

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